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6 February 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Subject: IAC Agency Views on NIE-57: Probable Political  
Developments in the West German Situation  
during 1952

1. The points of disagreement re NIE-57 are indicated by the State and Air Force footnotes to paragraphs 8, 24, and 33. These paragraphs deal with the effect on West German integration and rearmament of East German overtures for German unification. The estimate concludes that such overtures cannot permanently block, but "might delay" West German action.

(a) State thinks unification overtures could not even delay West German action. The other agencies feel that unification sentiment is still strong in West Germany and that there are many delaying tactics still open to the East Germans.

(b) As for the Air Force footnote, in NIE-50 all of the agencies except the Air Force estimate that Soviet withdrawal from East Germany is extremely unlikely. Therefore, there seems no need to consider in NIE-57 the effects of such withdrawal on West Germany.

2. As you know, the West German Bundestag is holding a full-dress debate on the EDC and rearmament issues on 7 and 8 February. Conceivably this debate could result in a serious setback to the program. The Board believes such a setback unlikely, and suggests that the IAC approve the estimate, but that publication be deferred until Monday. In the unlikely event that the debate invalidates the estimate in any respect, a further meeting of the agency representatives could be called on Monday to revise the estimate.

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Assistant Director  
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